

within himself. The material of this section thus has very significant bearings upon problems of early education.

7. FAMILY PLAY, AND IDEAS ABOUT
BABIES AND
MARRIAGE

The general preoccupation of small children with the different facets of the problem of family relationships—father, mother and child—and the corresponding aspects of their own internal psychic life, is shown by the constant way in which they will turn any sort of external objects into "daddies", "mummies"¹ and "babies". Even the Montessori "long stair" will be turned into "daddy sticks", "mummy" and "baby sticks" by very young children, and any small object will be regarded as a "baby so-and-so". The family situation provides a pattern for the whole world of experience with children under four years of age. Later on, when they have acquired not only relatively impersonal interests, but the ability to hide their deeper feelings, this central phantasy comes out less often into the open and does not so naively dominate such a wide field of their activity, although it will still appear in the special situation of free, imaginative play.

In these incidents we are shown not only the wishes of small children to have babies of their own, and their early ideas about what babies are made of, but also some of their early notions as to marriage and the intimate relation between fathers and mothers, together with an occasional glimpse of their deeper unconscious phantasies about parental intercourse.

In some of their conversations about who can marry whom (for example 8.7.25, when the children have been conversing about being married, Dan sums things up by saying, "I can't be married to a boy and Priscilla can't

be married to
a girl") it is not merely their intellectual
notions about sex
and the relation of the sexes which we see the
children attempting
to work out. This intellectual uncertainty
is largely
an outcome of the deeper conflict between their
identifica-
tions with the two parents respectively. Both
boy and girl
show this conflict, each normally developing an
identification
with both father and mother.

Several of these incidents show the wish to
have and produce
a baby occurring in little boys as well as girls.
When two or
three of the boys rocked about as if they were
holding babies